

House  
REPUBLICAN  
Conference

# FloorPrep

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Legislative Digest

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

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John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and  
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business  
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 2886—Granite Watershed Enhancement and Protection Act**

**H.R. 1021—Miles Land Exchange Act**

**H.R. 2217—Extending the FERC Deadline for a Hydroelectric Project in Colorado**

**H.R. 2841—Extending the FERC Deadline for a Hydroelectric Project in Kentucky**

**H.Res. 423—Resolution on Winning the War on Drugs**

**H.R. 2652—Collections of Information Antipiracy Act**

**H.R. 3723—United States Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act**

**H.R. 3811—Establishing Felony Violations for Failing to Pay Child Support Obligations**

**H.R. 2829—Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act**

**H.Res. 422—Sense of the House Concerning Law Enforcement Officers**

**H.Con.Res. 262—Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the Special  
Olympics Torch Relay**

**H.Con.Res. 263—Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the National  
Peace Officers Memorial**

**H.Con.Res. 255—Authorizing the Use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater  
Washington Soap Box Derby**



## **Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the following 13 bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

**H.R. 2886—Granite Watershed Enhancement and Protection Act** authorizes the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to conduct a watershed management pilot project in the Stanislaus National Forest in California. Specifically, the bill authorizes the Agriculture Secretary to enter into a five-year contract with a single private contractor to perform multiple resource management activities (i.e., reducing forest fuel loads through precommercial and commercial thinning, as well as monitoring wildlife and water quality in the Granite watershed) on federal lands within the forest to demonstrate enhanced water quality at reduced government cost. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Doolittle; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 1021—Miles Land Exchange Act** authorizes an exchange of approximately 84 acres within the Routt National Forest in the state of Colorado for an equal amount of private land known as the “Miles Parcel,” which is adjacent to the forest. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. McInnis; the Resources Committee reported the bill by voice vote.

**H.R. 2217** extends the deadline under the Federal Power Act for the commencement of construction for a 4.6 megawatt hydroelectric project in San Miguel County, Colorado, until January 30, 2002. The bill extends the deadline to 10 years after the date the license was issued. The deadline for the commencement of construction of this project expired on January 26, 1996. The bill does not ease the requirements of a hydroelectric license, but merely extends the period for commencement of project construction. CBO estimates that enactment of either bill will have no net effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. McInnis on July 22, 1997.

**H.R. 2841** extends the deadline for the commencement of construction for a 35 megawatt hydroelectric project in Bracken County, Kentucky, for up to three additional two-year periods. The bill extends the deadline for up to 10 years after the date the license was issued. The deadline for commencement of construction of the project expires on July 31, 1999. The bill does not ease the requirements of a hydroelectric license, but merely extends the period for commencement of project construction. The legislation permits up to three consecutive two-year extensions, instead of a six-year extension, to ensure that the licensee continues to meet FERC requirements. CBO estimates that enactment of either bill will have no net effect on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. Bunning on November 6, 1997.

**H.Res. 423** expresses the sense of the House regarding winning the war on drugs. The resolution (1) declares the House’s commitment to create a drug-free America; (2) encourages members of the House to work to mobilize children, parents, community organizations, educators, local officials, and law enforcement to wage a winning war on drugs; (3) pledges that the House will pass legislation to provide the tools necessary to protect children and communities from drug addiction and violence; and (4) expresses the need for deterring the demand and stopping the supply of drugs in the United States. The bill was introduced by Mr. Hastert *et al.* and was not considered by House committee.

**H.R. 2652—Collections of Information Antipiracy Act** prohibits misappropriation and misuse of commercially collected information by entities that may use it to unfairly gain a market advantage over their competitors. Specifically, nonprofit educational, scientific, research, and library entities collect vast amounts of information for use and access by their customers. The bill arises from

complaints raised by mostly small, independent companies which provide the kinds of services outlined in the bill. H.R. 2652 also exempts nonprofit organizations from criminal and civil liability for their own efforts to collect information. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. H.R. 2652 was introduced by Mr. Coble and was ordered reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on March 24, 1998.

**H.R. 3723—United States Patent and Trademark Office Reauthorization Act** reauthorizes appropriations for FY 1999 for the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). Specifically, the bill authorizes \$66 million from fees collected in FY 1998 and FY 1999 to pay salaries and other necessary expenses of the PTO to carry out its mission of issuing patents and registering trademarks in order to promote the progress of science and arts through new inventions. The bill was introduced by Mr. Coble; the Judiciary Committee reported the bill by voice vote on May 6, 1998.

**H.R. 3811—Establishing Felony Violations for Failure to Pay Legal Child Support Obligations** to pay court-ordered child support and amends current law to outline punishment for such offenses. Specifically, the bill states that persons who fail to pay child support, or cross state lines in order to avoid having child support funds assessed against them, and allow their unpaid support balances for one year or in excess of \$5,000, will be subject to a fine and/or imprisonment for up to six months. If support payments remain unpaid for two years or in excess of \$10,000, the individual will be subject to a fine and/or imprisonment for up to two years. Additionally, persons convicted under this provision will remain responsible for making restitution of all unpaid child support payments which exist at the time their prison sentence is issued. A CBO cost estimate was unavailable at press time. H.R. 3811 was introduced by Mr. Hyde; although the bill was not considered by any committee, a similar measure, H.R. 2925, was reported by the Judiciary Committee by voice vote on April 1, 1998.

**H.R. 2829—Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act** authorizes the director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance to (1) make grants to states or local governments to purchase bulletproof vests for use by law enforcement officers, and (2) give preferential treatment consideration to applications from jurisdictions that have the greatest need for such funding, a mandatory policy for using bulletproof vests, or a violent crime rate above the national average. The program will provide matching grants to state and local law enforcement agencies to assist in purchasing bulletproof vests and body armor for their officers. The measure also prohibits any state or local government that participates in this program from purchasing equipment and products manufactured by using prison labor. Finally, it expresses the sense of Congress that law enforcement agencies receiving assistance through the program should purchase only American-produced law enforcement equipment and products. The bill was introduced by Mr. Visclosky; it was not considered by any committee.

**H.Res. 422—Sense of the House Concerning Law Enforcement Officers** expresses the sense of the House that law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty should be honored, recognized, and remembered for their sacrifice. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Burton; it was not considered by any committee.

**H.Con.Res. 262** authorizes the 1998 Special Olympics Torch Relay to be run through the Capitol grounds. This event will take place on May 29, 1998, and will be part of the torch relay to the District of Columbia Special Olympics Summer Games being held at Gallaudet University from May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The resolution authorizes the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police

Board to ensure that the event is carried out in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.Con.Res. 262 was introduced by Mr. Kim and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote.

**H.Con.Res. 263** authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds on May 15, 1998, for the 17<sup>th</sup> annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. The resolution authorizes the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol Police Board, and the Grand Lodge Fraternal Order to negotiate the necessary arrangements to carry out the event in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.Con.Res. 263 was introduced by Mr. Kim and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote.

**H.Con.Res. 255** authorizes the use of the Capitol grounds on Saturday, July 11, 1998, for the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. The resolution also authorizes the Capitol Police Board, the Architect of the Capitol, and the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association to negotiate the arrangements for the event in compliance with the rules and regulations governing the use of the Capitol grounds. CBO estimates that enactment will have no significant impact on the federal budget. H.Con.Res. 255 was introduced by Mr. Hoyer *et al.* and was reported by the Transportation Committee by voice vote.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #12, May 8, 1998.




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# Amendment Alert!

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Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

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John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill#: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the amendment: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): \_\_\_\_\_

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*Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.*

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